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Dkt. 2271/71086

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

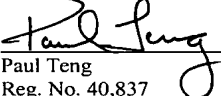
Application of: Takehiro NAKAJIMA

Serial No.: 10/662,667

Date Filed: September 15, 2003

For: METHOD OF AND APPARATUS FOR IMAGE PROCESSING, IMAGE
PROCESSING SYSTEM, AND IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited this date with
the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an
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 March 15, 2006
Paul Teng Date
Reg. No. 40,837

1185 Avenue of the Americas
New York, N.Y. 10036
(212) 278-0400

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to the applicant's duty of disclosure, the information listed in the attached Form PTO-1449 is brought to the attention of the Examiner. A copy of the cited reference listed on the annexed Form PTO-1449 is enclosed herewith.

It is respectfully requested that the information cited in annexed Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Examiner in connection with the above-identified patent application, and that such art be made of record in said application.

The information listed in the Form PTO-1449 was cited in a December 20, 2005 official action in connection with a corresponding Japanese application. A copy of the December 20, 2005 Japanese office action is enclosed herewith. The remaining reference (Japanese application publication no. 2000-4369) cited in the Japanese office action and not listed on the annexed Form PTO-1449 was submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed with this application on September 15, 2003, and therefore is not being resubmitted herewith.

The citation of the listed items is not a representation that they constitute a complete or

exhaustive listing of the relevant art or that these items are prior art. The items listed are submitted in good faith, but are not intended to substitute for the Examiner's search. It is hoped, however, that in addition to apprising the Examiner of the particular items, they will assist in identifying fields of search and in making as full and complete a search as possible.

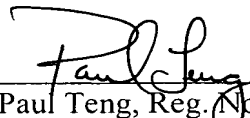
The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is not an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

This Information Disclosure is submitted pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3). To the best of Applicant's knowledge, a first Office Action on the merits has not been issued in this application.

Alternatively, Applicant requests consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c)(1). Each item of information listed in the attached Form PTO-1449 was cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior hereto. Accordingly, no fees are believed to be required in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement.

However, if any fees are required for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement, the Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge such required fees and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul Teng, Reg. No. 40,837

Attorney for Applicant

Cooper & Dunham LLP

1185 Avenue of the Americas

New York, New York 10036

(212) 278-0400

